“PORRO’S OPERATION IN ITALY.”

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your issue of Feb. 3rd you mention that, “according to Dr. Negri, Porro’s operation was performed in Italy thirty-eight times from May, 1876, to May, 1882; fourteen of the women recovered, and twenty-four died. It would also be interesting to know how many of the children survived.” The following list supplies this information. I have added two cases occurring since May, 1882, making altogether forty operations.

No.	Date.	Operator.	Mother.	Child.
1	May 21, 1876	Dr. Porro	Recov.	Living
2	Jan. 3, 1877	Dr. Inzani	Died	„
3	April 25, 1877	Dr. Previtali	„	Dead
4	Dec. 16, 1877	Dr. Chiara	„	Living
5	April 22, 1878	Dr. Franzolini	„	Twins*
6	May 22, 1878	Dr. Chiara	„	Living
7	May 28, 1878	Dr. Tibone	„	„
8	Aug. 23, 1878	Dr. Perolio	Recov.	„
9	Oct. 19, 1878	Dr. Chiara	„	„
10	Dec. 30, 1878	Dr. Previtali	Died	Dead
11	Jan. 17, 1879	Dr. Tibone	„	Living
12	Feb. 11, 1879	Dr. Coggi	„	„
13	March 1, 1879	Dr. Tibone	„	„
14	March 20, 1879	Dr. Peyretti	„	„
15	May 3, 1879	Dr. Previtali	„	Dead
16	May 16, 1879	Dr. Berruti	Recov.	Living
17	June 19, 1879	Dr. Mangiagalli	„	„
18	Aug. 28, 1879	Dr. Chiara	„	„
19	Jan. 9, 1880	Dr. Previtali	Died	Dead
20	Feb., 1880	Dr. Valtorta	„	„
21	Feb. 17, 1880	Dr. Chiarleoni	„	Living
22	Feb. 25, 1880	Dr. Mangiagalli	Recov.	„
23	March 19, 1880	Dr. Cuzzi	Died	„
24	April 5, 1880	Dr. Peruzzi	Recov.	„
25	June 1, 1880	Dr. Omboni	Died	„
26	July 3, 1880	Dr. Ramello	Recov.	„
27	July 3, 1880	Dr. Pasquali	Died	„
28	Dec. 3, 1880	Dr. Tibone	„	Dead
29	Dec. 3, 1880	Dr. Camminiti	Recov.	Living
30	Dec. 3, 1880	Dr. Cataliotti	„	„
31	Jan. 21, 1881	Dr. Parona	Died	„
32	April 1, 1881	Dr. Olivieri	„	„
33	June 22, 1881	Dr. Nicolini	Recov.	„
34	Oct., 1881	Dr. Negri	„	„
35	Oct., 1881	Dr. Calderini	Died	Dead
36	Oct. 22, 1881	Dr. Chiara	Recov.	Living
37	Oct. 22, 1882	Dr. Morisani	Died	„
38	Oct. 22, 1882	Dr. Dozzi	„	Dead
39	Sept. 23, 1882	Dr. Tansini	Recov.	Living
40	Dec. 28, 1882	Dr. Barsotti	Died	„

* Born alive, but died within an hour.

This shows that fifteen women recovered and twenty-five died, and that thirty-one children were saved, not including the twins in Case 5, who were born alive, but died shortly afterwards. This list has not been published, as far as I know. I have abstracted it from a complete list I have compiled of all the Porro’s operations recorded up to the present time. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Grosvenor-street, W., Feb. 13th, 1883. CLEMENT GODSON.

MEDICAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The subject of a Medical Provident Society being now rather prominently before the profession, I shall feel obliged if you will grant me a few lines to refer to the subject.
An attempt is being made to establish a Society as an offspring of the British Medical Association, which I think a mistake, as that body numbers little over one-third of the profession. Dr. B. W. Richardson, who was the moving spirit of the 1866 experiment, has kindly gone into the matter pretty fully with me, and I have been in communication with several members of the profession who are

anxious to see such a Society started. It would be necessary to get at least 200 members to begin with, and then with a subscription of two guineas a year by each member entering under thirty years of age, after the expiration of the first year, £1 a week could be allowed for twenty-six weeks, and 10s. a week for another twenty-six weeks in case of total inability to work.
In my opinion the Society had better not be managed entirely by medical men, as those with the best business ability seldom have time for matters outside practice, and could not be certain of being able to regularly attend meetings. I have rules nearly ready for printing, and shall be happy to receive the names of any who would care to join such a Society. The above, with the existing life insurance societies, would provide ample means for self-providence, and we ought not then to have such frequent appeals on behalf of unfortunate medical men, their widows or children.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
A. PHILLIPS HILLS, M.R.C.S. ENG.,
Member of the British Medical Association, Honorary Local Secretary for the British Medical Benevolent Fund.
Carlton House, Battersea-park, S.W., Feb. 19th, 1883.

AMPUTATION AT THE HIP-JOINT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The Clinical Society, at its last meeting, did me the honour to give much of its time to the discussion of a method of amputation at the hip which I have devised. The personal element is unimportant, the mode of executing the largest operation on the body is very important. The operation I described, in THE LANCET first of all, differs in momentous particulars from the continental methods which it is said to resemble. If the head of the bone be disengaged *first* and the vessels be divided *last*, at right angles, and *low down* in the thigh, the question of hæmorrhage is shorn of all anxiety. The operation has, within a brief period, almost supplanted the rough-and-ready flap method with its vast cut surfaces. It has already saved many lives in desperate cases where competent and impartial surgeons have held that no other treatment was possible. When the operation is said to be tedious, its steps have not been well considered. When it is rejected on the score of a few moments of time, there is something wanting in the surgical conscience.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
Birmingham, Feb. 20th, 1883. FURNEAUX JORDAN.

REGINA VERSUS NOAKE: CHARGE OF PROCURING ABORTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—After six weeks’ incarceration, and all the distress, anxiety, and uncertainty of a prolonged trial, Mr. Noake, a medical man, practising at Halton, near Leeds, has been declared “Not guilty!”
The danger is an ever-present one, from which the most honourable conduct will not always shield us, and the victims of charges of this kind imperatively demand our hearty and substantial sympathy.

Contributions towards defraying the heavy legal expenses may be transmitted to the Yorkshire Bank, Leeds, “Noake Fund,” and will, with your permission, be duly acknowledged by me in this journal.
I am, Sir, yours obediently,
PHILIP FOSTER, M.D.,
One of the Medical Witnesses for the Defence.
Leeds, February 19th, 1883.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SIR WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, a few years ago, made a present to the city of a very extensive and beautiful park, at Heaton, and he has just lately supplemented the handsome gift by offering the far-famed gardens and banqueting hall, &c., at Jesmond Dene, to our Corporation, but under certain conditions, for our use for ever. Only a very few years ago we were without a public park, now we are the happy possessors of half-a-dozen. I shall in some future letter refer to the conditions of the gift, which, on the part